21st October 1927]

Increased estimates for Tuticorin Harbour scheme.

*789 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) whether in respect of Tuticorin Deep Water Harbour scheme, the commercial interests, both Indian and European, have been interviewed, with regard to dredging and increase in rates as stated in reply to question No. 220, dated 4th March 1927; and

(*b*) if so, what is the result of such interview?

A—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 284, Finance (Marine), dated 17th May 1927, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the question of the present scheme being proceeded with at the present site was referred to a committee of Expert Harbour Engineers?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It was referred to a committee of Expert Harbour Engineers."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government have received intimation of the recommendations of this committee of Expert Harbour Engineers?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"We received a telegram regarding the suggestions as to what should be done before they submit their final report."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"In view of the fact that the Committee of Expert Harbour Engineers is going to be against the continuance of the present scheme and it has recommended an alternative scheme, may I know whether the Government are prepared to suspend the operations at least now?"

The hon Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The Government have already suspended the dredging operations."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"May I know how long the operations are going to be suspended in pursuance of the present policy of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I cannot say that exactly."

Motor Vehicles Act

Rates of charges for taxis.

*790 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the rates of charges for motor vehicles running for hire were fixed;

(*b*) whether the prices of motor vehicles and of petrol have gone down since then;

(*c*) whether the services of chauffeurs also have become cheaper since then; and

(*d*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of reducing the rates that can be charged?